

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 17703 01 OF 03 041408Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----072207 041422Z /42
O O 041344Z JUN 78 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2574
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
EUCOM VAIHINGEN GER NIACT IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 17703

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MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FROM NEWSOM

E.V. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, FR, US, CG
SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S MEETING WITH
GISCARD'S MILITARY ADVISOR

1. UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM, ACCOMPANIED BY BARTHOLOMEW (NSC), DEP. ASST. SECRETARY (AF) WALKER, DEP. ASST. SECRETARY MURRAY (DOD/ISA), GENERAL COLLINS (EUCOM), AND DCM GAMMON MET WITH THE HEAD OF PRESIDENT GISCARD'S MILITARY STAFF, GENERAL VANBREMEERSCH FOR AN HOUR AT 1030 SUNDAY JUNE 4. PRESENT ON THE FRENCH SIDE WERE QUAI AFRICAN DIRECTOR GEORGY, DEPUTY CHIEF

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 17703 01 OF 03 041408Z

OF STAFF FOR LOGISTICS GENERAL LOISSILON AND COSMERY'S CHEF DE CABINET, COL. LEJEUNE.

2. UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM BEGAN THE MEETING BY EXPRESSING IN THE NAME OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE APPRECIATION FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO COOPERATE IN A VENTURE IMPORTANT TO THE ECONOMY OF ZAIRE. HE

ALSO SAID THE US APPRECIATES THE BURDEN FRANCE HAS BEEN CARRYING IN MUCH OF AFRICA AS WELL AS DURING THE PRESENT CRISIS. THE QUICK US RESPONSE TO FRENCH REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IS INDICATIVE OF OUR DESIRE TO COOPERATE. NONETHELESS, WE REQUIRE ANSWERS TO A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH OUR CONGRESS. IN PARTICULAR:

-- WHAT AFRICAN FORCES ARE NOW FORMALLY COMMITTED AND FROM WHAT COUNTRIES?

-- WHAT ARE THE PLANS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF FRENCH FORCES?

THERE IS CONCERN IN WASHINGTON THAT THERE BE A SUFFICIENT FORCE IN SHABA TO INSURE STABILITY AND PREVENT THE DEPARTURE OF THE EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY VITAL TO THE ECONOMY. WE ARE PLEASED TO HEAR THAT FRANCE HAS DECIDED TO AUGMENT ITS AIRLIFE CAPACITY BY CHARTERING CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT.

3. GEN VANBREMEERSCH SAID THAT FRENCH INTERVENTION IN SHABA WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE OF THE URGENCY OF THE SITUATION. FROM THE BEGINNING, HOWEVER, PRESIDENT GISCARD'S IDEA WAS TO HAVE AN AFRICAN FORCE. THE OBJECTIVE NOW IS TO GET SUCH A FORCE IN PLACE AS SOON
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 PARIS 17703 01 OF 03 041408Z

AS POSSIBLE WITH AS MANY AFRICAN STATES AS POSSIBLE PARTICIPATING. FRANCE (LIKE BELGIUM) HAS A PERMANENT MILITARY ASSISTANCE MISSION IN ZAIRE OF ABOUT 150 MEN. THIS HAS BEEN AUGMENTED IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS TO PROVIDE A 20-MAN HEADQUARTERS ADVISORY GROUP WHICH WILL BE HEADQUARTERED IN SUBUMBASHI AND ABLE TO ASSIST THE AFRICAN STATES PARTICIPATING IN THE FORCE.

4. GEN. VANBREMEERSCH SAID FRANCE WANTS TO GET ITS LEGIONNAIRES OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WITHIN THREE DAYS HE ANTICIPATES THAT ALL OF THE SECOND REP WILL HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A REINFORCED COMPANY OF ABOUT 200 MEN AT KOLWEZI. THIS UNIT WILL BE WITHDRAWN AFTER THE MOROCCAN DETACHMENT HAS ARRIVED -- POSSIBLY WITHIN A WEEK.

5. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY DIFFICULTIES IN PUTTING TOGETHER THE AFRICAN FORCE. THE MOROCCANS, FOR INSTANCE, ARE WELL ORGANIZED AND EQUIPPED BUT ARE TIED UP IN THE SAHARA. AFTER LAST YEAR'S EXPERIENCE IN SHABA THEY HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN THE ZAIRE ARMY AND INSIST UPON SENDING A LARGE FORCE ADEQUATE TO INSURE THEIR OWN

SECRET

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PAGE 01 PARIS 17703 02 OF 03 041424Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2575
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
EUCOM VAIHINGEN GER NIACT IMMEDIATE
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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 03 PARIS 17703

EXDIS

SECURITY. THEY INTEND TO SEND ABOUT 1500 MEN. THE
EQUIPMENT FOR THESE MEN WILL HAVE TO BE PROVIDED EX-
TERNALLY. IN THE FRENCH VIEW THIS FORCE IS LARGER THAN
NECESSARY AND CAUSES TRANSPORT AND SUPPLY PROBLEMS.

6. THE OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAVE SMALL ARMIES AND
IT IS HARD TO GET INFORMATION FROM THEM ABOUT EXACTLY
WHAT THEY WILL CONTRIBUTE. HOWEVER, LIKE THE MOROCCANS
, EACH WANTS TO SEND A FORCE LARGE ENOUGH TO PROVIDE
FOR ITS OWN SECURITY. THEY WILL, MOREOVER, HAVE TO
BE COMPLETELY EQUIPPED BY OTHERS.

7. DURING THE VISIT OF KING KHALID OF SAUDI ARABIA
TO FRANCE, HE PROMISED PRESIDENT GISCARD TO PROVIDE
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SUFFICIENT TO FURNISH THE
MOROCCAN FORCE. THIS PLUS THE AID WHICH FRANCE WILL
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 17703 02 OF 03 041424Z

GIVE HAS LARGELY RESOLVED THE EQUIPMENT PROBLEM WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SOME ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT NOT AVAILABLE TO FRENCH FORCES. THESE INCLUDE 120MM MORTARS AND AMMUNITION; JEEPS WITH 106MM RECOILLESS RIFLES AND LAND ROVER AND JEEP TYPE VEHICLES.

8. COUNTRIES AND FORCES CONTRIBUTING ARE AS FOLLOWS:

-- MOROCCO: 1500 MEN COMPOSED OF 5 REINFORCED COMPANIES OF 250 MEN PLUS A SUPPORT ELEMENT. MOROCCO WILL ASSUME NOMINAL COMMAND OF THE AFRICAN FORCE, ASSISTED BY FRENCH ADVISORS.

-- SENEGAL: A 600-MAN BATTALION, ONE COMPANY OF WHICH TO BE AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY.

-- TOGO: 300 MEN, TWO COMPANIES (ONE PARACHUTIST, ONE MOTORIZED).

-- GABON: 150 MEN, ONE PARACHUTE COMPANY.

-- THE IVORY COAST: 60 SERVICE AND MEDICAL PERSONNEL.

-- CENTRAL AFRICA EMPIRE: 300 MEN BUT TOTALLY WITHOUT EQUIPMENT.

9. CONCERNING THE AIRLIFT, GEN. VANBREMEERSCH SAID THAT 120 TONS WERE TO BE SHIPPED AND ANOTHER 220 TONS OF UNIMOG (LIGHT TRUCK) TYPE VEHICLES. THE AIRLIFT ASSISTANCE PROPOSED BY THE US WILL BE SUFFICIENT ONLY TO TRANSPORT 120 TONS OF EQUIPMENT FROM FRANCE PLUS ABOUT ONE COMPANY WITH EQUIPMENT FROM THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES.

SECRET

PAGE 03 PARIS 17703 02 OF 03 041424Z

TING AFRICAN COUNTRIES. GEN. VANBREMEERSCH ASKED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE SOME SUPPLEMENTARY AIRLIFT TOWARD THE END OF NEXT WEEK.

10. UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM SAID THAT GEN. HUYSER WILL HAVE A CLEARER IDEA WITHIN THE NEXT DAY OR SO OF WHAT IS REQUIRED. THE US HAS PROMISED 30 SORTIES. TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE FRENCH EFFORT IN THE AIRLIFT, AND ONCE WE HAVE A MORE PRECISE IDEA, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ADD UP TO 5 MORE. IF MORE THAN THAT ARE REQUIRED, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO GO BACK TO CONSULT WITH THE CONGRESS. WE WISH TO DO ALL WE CAN TO MAKE THE INITIAL

AIRLIFT SUCCESSFUL AND TO PUT IN PLACE A FORCE SUFFICIENT TO DO THE JOB. WHILE WE APPRECIATE THE ENTHUSIASM OF SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO CONTRIBUTE LARGER FORCES, WE BELIEVE THAT MILITARY RATHER THAN POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS SHOULD DICTATE THE SIZE OF THE FORCE ACTUALLY TRANSPORTED. THERE IS A LIMIT TO HOW MUCH WE WILL BE ABLE TO DO. WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION IN REGARD TO OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CONGRESS TO PROVIDE A CONTINUING AIRLIFT. MR. NEWSOM ASKED HOW FRANCE FORESAW THE PROBLEM OF CONTINUING SUPPORT. WE ARE HELPING PUT THE FORCE IN PLACE BUT ARE NOT COMMITTED TO ITS CONTINUING SUPPORT. EXCUSING HIMSELF FOR LAPSING INTO THE POLITICAL AREA, GEN. VANBREMEERSCH SAID THAT ZAIRE OBVIOUSLY CANNOT PAY FOR THE COST OF THE OPERATION. ALL COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN THE STABILITY OF ZAIRE WILL HAVE TO PAY SOMETHING. FRANCE IS DEEPLY INVOLVED ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA. IN SHABA THE FRENCH PARATROOPERS ARE LOOKED TO FOR PROTECTION BY ALL THE EXPATRIATES, NOT JUST THE FRENCH. THERE ARE OTHER COUNTRIES WITH FINE ARMIES (HE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY THE FRG). FRANCE CANNOT DO IT ALL. OTHERS MUST SHARE THE BURDEN. MR. NEWSOM SAID THAT THIS IS A SUBJECT THAT WOULD BE ADDRESSED AT THE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 PARIS 17703 02 OF 03 041424Z

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PAGE 01 PARIS 17703 03 OF 03 041413Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
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SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
EUCOM VAIHINGEN GER NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BANGUI NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

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S E C R E T SECTION 03 OF 03 PARIS 17703

EXDIS

MEETING MONDAY, BUT FOR THE MOMENT, WE WILL CONSIDER THAT THE US AND FRENCH AIRLIFT (WITH PERHAPS SOME SMALL ADDITLON) WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO GET THE FORCE ON THE GROUND. GEN. VANBREMEERSCH SAID THAT IT WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO GET AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN PLACE BUT SOME MEN AND EQUIPMENT WILL HAVE TO BE TRANSPORTED SUBSEQUENTLY. FRANCE CAN HANDLE THE PERSONNEL BUT NOT THE HEAVY EQUIPMENT. MR. NEWSOM NOTED THAT THE TRANSPORT OF MATERIEL WAS WHERE THE SPECIALIZED US AIRLIFT CAPACITY WAS BEST UTILIZED.

11. MR. NEWSOM EMPHASIZED US CONCERN THAT EXPATRIATES IN SHABA BE REASSURED AS IT IS VITAL TO THE ECONOMY OF ZAIRE. IS FRANCE CONFIDENT THAT THE MOROCCANS WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED ASSURANCE? WILL FRENCH FORCES BE PREPARED TO REMAIN UNTIL IT IS CLEAR
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 17703 03 OF 03 041413Z

THE MOROCCANS ARE DOING THE JOB? GEN. VANBREMEERSCH SAID THAT THE MOROCCAN EXPERIENCE IN MAURITANIA SHOWS THAT THEY CAN DO A GOOD JOB IN THIS REGARD. THE FRENCH REINFORCED COMPANY WILL REMAIN IN KOLWEZI UNTIL THE MOROCCANS HAVE TAKEN OVER.

12. MR. NEWSOM ASKED WHETHER FRANCE HAD POSED ANY CONDITIONS CONCERNING MILITARY REFORM IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR OFFER TO TRAIN THE ZAIRE ARMY OR IS FRANCE ONLY GOING TO TRAIN SMALL UNITS. GEN. VANBREMEERSCH REPLIED THAT FRANCE WILL OPERATE ON BOTH LEVELS BUT THAT THE ZAIRE ARMY IS THE MOST DIFFICULT TO TRAIN THAT FRENCH INSTRUCTORS HAVE EVER COME AGAINST.

13. IN CONCLUDING THE MEETING, MR. NEWSOM SAID THAT WE WOULD HAVE SOME DIFFICULTIES WITH THE QUESTION OF TRANSPORTING CAE TROOPS. THE REPUTATION OF THE CAE IS NOT GOOD IN WASHINGTON AND WE WOULD PREFER NOT TO BE INVOLVED IN THAT ASPECT OF THE OPERATION. FRENCH SHOWED UNDERSTANDING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, INVASIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS17703
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780233-1022
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780698/aaaadgnb.tel
Line Count: 331
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 783abe92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2497371
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S MEETING WITH GISCARD'S MILITARY ADVISOR
TAGS: MASS, FR, US, CG, (NEWSON, DAVID D)
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/783abe92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014